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Representative Dan Huberty



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Huberty Reassigned to State Affairs and Public Education; Adds Calendars Committee

State Representative Dan Huberty has been reassigned to serve on the House Public Education and State Affairs committees, and was newly appointed to the procedural Calendars committee for the 84th Legislative Session. Speaker of the Texas House, Joe Straus, announced committee assignments for all members Wednesday afternoon.

Huberty was very pleased to hear about his reassignment to the Public Education committee saying, "Having served on this committee for the past two sessions, I feel I have garnered a keen understanding of the issues Texas faces in public education. We have affectively addressed many of these and I look forward to making further progress for Texas students. I am glad to be a voice for the education community."

Similarly, Huberty was thrilled with his reappointment to the State Affairs committee. "Even after two sessions on State Affairs, it is still truly an honor to be selected to serve on this prestigious committee. We cover such a vast spectrum of issues that it allows us to affect change in all areas of the state, for each and every Texan."

His assignment to the Calendars committee will allow Huberty to play a much larger role in the business of the Texas House. According to the Rules, the Calendars committee "shall have jurisdiction over: the placement of bills and resolutions on appropriate calendars, except those within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules and Resolutions; the determination of priorities and proposal of rules for floor consideration of such bills and resolutions; and all other matters concerning the calendar system and the expediting of the business of the house as may be assigned by the speaker."

"These assignments place me in the company of some great members and I am looking forward to working with them over the next 117 days. I will work to do what is best for the State of Texas and House District 127, in particular," stated Huberty.

Speaker Straus also made comments about the appointments saying, "These assignments reflect the makeup of the House. They also reflect a collaborative and results-oriented culture that has worked very well in recent years. The House is a place that encourages Members to find common ground and build consensus around serious solutions." Committees will begin meeting next week. According to the Texas Constitution, the House cannot consider legislation during the session's first 60 days unless that legislation relates to an emergency item designated by the Governor.

"Our committee structure allows every Member to play a meaningful role in the House's work," Speaker Straus said. "I look forward to working with all Members to address the challenges and opportunities facing our state."

For more information about committee assignments, please visit http://www.house.state.tx.us/_media/pdf/committee.pdf.

Visit Representative Huberty online [here](#).

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To Unsubscribe to our weekly newsletters, click [here](#).

Governor Abbott's State of the State Address

For Governor [Greg Abbott's](#) State of the State Address on Tuesday, here is a link to the Emergency Items Proclamations he announced, including early education, higher education research initiatives, border security funding, transportation funding and ethics reforms.

To view the proclamation on early education, visit:

http://gov.texas.gov/files/press-office/Early_Education.pdf.

To view the proclamation on higher education, visit:

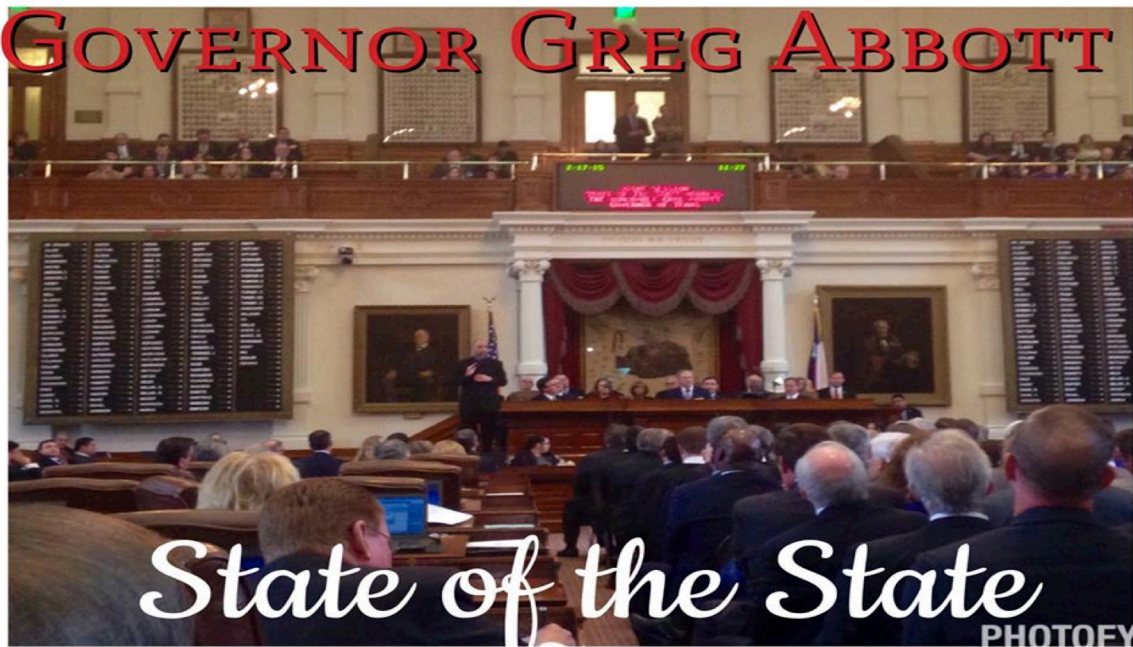
http://gov.texas.gov/files/press-office/Higher_Education.pdf.

To view the proclamation on border security, http://gov.texas.gov/files/press-office/Border_Security.pdf.

To view the proclamation on transportation, <http://gov.texas.gov/files/press-office/Transportation.pdf>.

To view the proclamation on ethics, http://gov.texas.gov/files/press-office/Ethics_Reform.pdf.

The issuance of an emergency item list now enables the Legislature to consider these measures within the first 60 days of the legislative session.



Texas Flag Flown Over Capitol in Remembrance of Jacob Silva

The Texas House of Representatives honored the life of Jacob Silva with a moment of silence and a Texas flag was flown over the Capitol building in honor of his life. Jake was a wonderful young man who will be greatly missed by his family, friends and community.



Representative Huberty Files House Bill 4 for High Quality Prekindergarten Programs

Today, State Representative Dan Huberty (R-Houston), filed legislation that outlines a High Quality Prekindergarten program. House Bill 4 (HB 4) encourages Texas public school districts to implement high quality, accountable prekindergarten standards, and to provide additional funding for those districts already operating a program as outlined in the bill. The overall goal of HB 4 is to implement a long term, successful prekindergarten system for all public schools in the state.

"This bill is a significant step toward making effective, accountable pre-K available to more Texas children," said House Speaker Joe Straus. "These programs can make a real difference in children's lives and in the future of our state. Early childhood education is a priority for the Texas House, and I look forward to working with Representative Huberty and all our colleagues on this important issue."

Currently, Texas public school districts receive half-day prekindergarten funding for their eligible population equal to \$3,650 per student. HB 4 would allow districts to opt-in and receive up to an additional \$1,500 per eligible student, as determined by the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

With the passage of HB 4, school districts will have the opportunity to measure the success of their existing pre-kindergarten programs. Many of them are already operating at or above the standards outlined in this bill and may now be monetarily rewarded by the State," explained Representative Huberty. "It is our hope that this legislation will encourage other districts to raise the standards of their early education programs and help ensure better learning outcomes for all Texas students."

In order for districts to qualify, they must fully align their curriculum with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines and measure progress to meet the learning outcomes underlined in those guidelines. Prekindergarten teachers must also be appropriately certified in early childhood education as outlined in the current Texas Education Code. Finally, individual districts are required to develop a parental engagement plan to establish and maintain high levels of family involvement in the student's educational career.

"We are very excited that Rep. Huberty and other leaders in the House are coming together to support needed investment in early childhood education," said Bob Harvey, President and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP). "We are a founding member of the Early Matters Coalition because success in pre-K will support K-12 efforts and help Texas build the best workforce in the country. The Coalition is working hard to put other resources in place to support the increased investment from the state, which is critical."

House Bill 4 is one of several pieces of education-related legislation filed by Representative Huberty for the 84th Session. In his third term representing District 127, Huberty remains dedicated to addressing the many issues and challenges that lie ahead for his constituents and all Texans.



Electrocardiogram Screening for Student Athletes

Today, State Representative Sylvester Turner (D-Houston), State Representative Wayne Smith (R-Baytown), State Representative Dan Huberty (R-Houston), and Scott Stephens, President of the Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation, urged the Texas Legislature to support legislation that will allow for electrocardiogram screenings (ECGs) as part of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) pre-participation requirements for student athletes. The legislators have introduced HB 677, HB 767, and HB 779, respectively. Representatives of medical and educational entities joined today in support of the legislation, including Pat Shuff, CEO of Cypress ECG; Dr. Keith Moore, Superintendent of Crosby ISD; Holger Farmer and Pamela Velasco of August Heart, as well as numerous other medical professionals and supporters.

Sudden cardiac death is the leading cause of death among school-age athletes. Further, student athletes are 4.5 times more likely to die from sudden cardiac death than students not participating in competitive sports. Though student athletes in Texas are currently required to receive a physical in order to participate in UIL activities, the traditional physical does not sufficiently detect the underlying cardiac abnormalities that can lead to sudden cardiac death. An ECG provides for greater detection of cardiovascular diseases that predispose athletes to sudden cardiac death.

"This bill would save the lives of student athletes who are currently in danger of sudden cardiac death because they have an undiagnosed condition", said Rep. Sylvester Turner. "These deaths are preventable and we have the resources to inform Texas parents if their child is at risk. The legislation does not require parents to take any medical action in response to an ECG. Regardless of the information the ECG provides, any medical decisions regarding the student athlete remain at the parent's discretion."

The legislation filed is an extension of the momentous efforts by Scott P. Stephens of the Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation to screen all athletes in Texas schools. Three years ago, Stephens lost his son Cody to sudden cardiac death and believes that he would be alive today if he had received an ECG. Cody was only a few weeks away from graduating from Crosby High School and had received a football scholarship to Tarleton State University. *"After I lost my son Cody to sudden cardiac arrest in May of 2012, I discovered that the #1 killer of student athletes is sudden cardiac arrest. Texas has a great opportunity to lead the nation by being the first state to enhance the current pre-participation examination by including an ECG twice in a student athlete's career. By including an ECG we can find many of these at risk athletes before their families have to endure an unimaginable yet preventable loss,"* said Mr. Stephens.

Currently, student athletes are required to have physicals and parents are responsible for this cost. The cost of ECGs can range from \$0-15 and many schools districts provide ECGs for free. *"It was an easy decision to author a bill that would require heart screenings for student athletes who already take physicals before they play. If we can save even one kid's life, it will be worth it,"* said Rep. Wayne Smith. The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation has been a part of screening over 30,000 student athletes in its 2 year history. Mr. Stephens is continuing to receive extensive support from legislators and various organizations who understand the value and critical need to ensure every student athlete receives an ECG.

"In an attempt to ensure the health and safety of our Texas students, I, and several other members, will be partnering with the Cody Stephens Foundation to monitor the heart health of UIL athletes - our children", said Rep. Dan Huberty. "It is essential that we protect every student's life to the best of our ability and the Cody Stephens bill will go a long way to ensure that we do just that." You can view the press conference online at:

http://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=9717.

HB 779 - In Memory of Cody Stephens





In Memory of Barbara Jordan, Kingwood Area Republican Women Member

Below is an excerpt of the Resolution filed by both State Representative Dan Huberty & State Senator Brandon Creighton for Barbara Jordan:

Be it resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Barbara Jordan and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her husband, Ken Jordan; to her sons, John Jordan and his wife, Christie, Mark Jordan and his wife, Brenda, Scott Jordan and his wife, Denise, and Todd Jordan and his wife, Kathleen; to her grandchildren, Spencer, Stephanie, Nathan, Sarah, Luke, Brandon, and Briley; to her brother, Robert Scott; to her uncle, Toxie Kielman; and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it further that an official copy of this resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Barbara Jordan.

Governor Abbott Declares February 2nd - Chris Kyle Day at the Capitol

Governor Greg Abbott proclaimed that today, February 2nd, will be [Chris Kyle](#) Day in Texas in honor of Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, a native Texan and Navy SEAL who served four tours in Iraq and is recognized as the most lethal sniper in United States military history. Governor Abbott's proclamation reads in part as follows:

By proclaiming today, February 2, 2015, as Chris Kyle Day, I recognize — as Chief Petty Officer Kyle would insist — that he is the face of a larger force for freedom that has made this country the bravest, strongest and freest in the history of the world. Kyle is one of the legions of valiant warriors who made the ultimate commitment to our country: they put their lives on the line for a cause greater than themselves. They faced risks few Americans can comprehend, but all Americans should honor. So many Texans like Kyle have served with unmatched honor, bravery and heroism, and a grateful country is better because of them."

You can read the proclamation in full here: <http://gov.texas.gov/news/proclamation/20496>

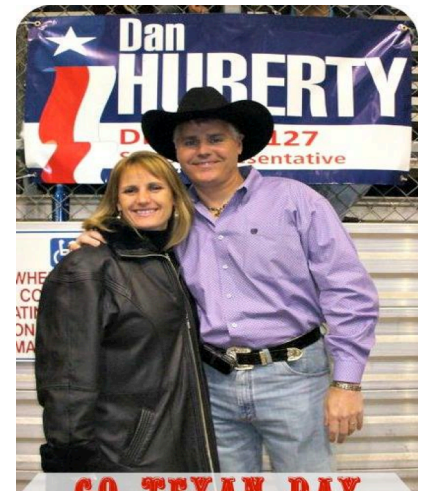
Huffman FFA Livestock Show

Representative Huberty attended the 2015 Huffman FFA Livestock Show this weekend and purchased Grace Foster's Broilers. Grace is an 8th Grade student at Huffman Middle School.



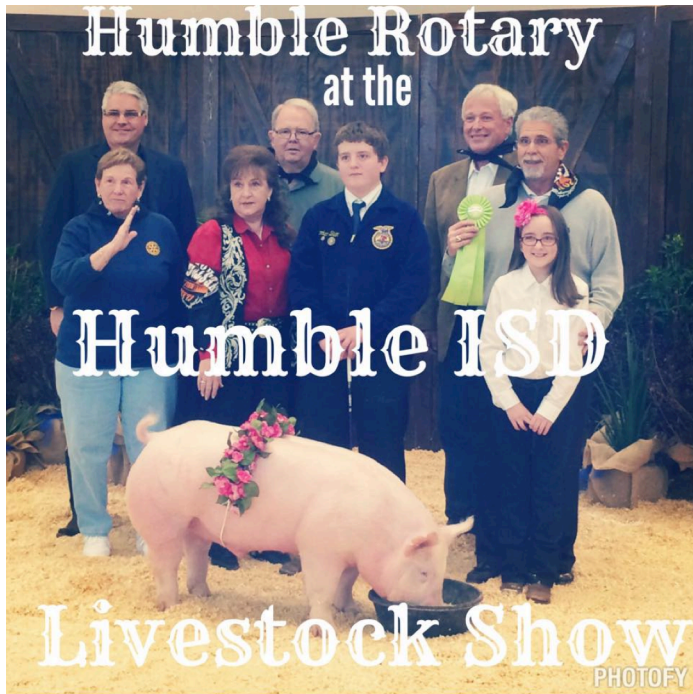
Go Texan Day

In order to preserve our proud Texas tradition and build awareness of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, the Show asks local residents to participate in this one-day event that will build pride in our Texas and Western heritage throughout Houston and the surrounding areas.



Humble ISD Livestock Show

Representative Huberty with Humble Intercontinental Rotary Club members and their prize pig from the Humble Independent School District Livestock Show.



Humble ISD Rodeo

Representative Huberty was proud to sponsor the Humble ISD Education Foundation Rodeo and Concert this year.



Chairman John Otto Fights for Texas Teachers

House Appropriations Committee Chairman John Otto announced on the House floor today that the House will fully fund TRS-Care, the health insurance program for retired public school employees of Texas. Chairman Otto was joined in this announcement by House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education Chairman Trent Ashby and members of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Committee on Pensions Dan Flynn, and other members of the Texas House.

"I want to reassure every member in the House and every retired teacher that the House will fully fund TRS-Care," said Otto. "This issue is too important to go unaddressed so I commit to you today that the House will meet our obligations to our retired teachers." The TRS-Care retiree health insurance program was created in 1986 and now has roughly 240,000 participants. The TRS-Care shortfall is expected to be approximately \$760 million by the end of the 2016-2017 biennium. Chairman Otto is committed to providing TRS-Care with the necessary additional funding to ensure the future sustainability of this vital program. Considering 95 percent of our retired school employees do not receive Social Security benefits, securing this funding will prevent a drastic change in access to affordable health care to our retired teachers.

"I was privileged to be in attendance today at the Appropriations meeting and fully support Chairman Otto's efforts and thank him for his leadership on this matter," Chairman Flynn said. "Texas teachers are a large part of molding the Texas leaders of tomorrow and many teachers and retirees have expressed their concerns on this matter. I am glad the House will address the shortage of funding for retiree health care over the next two years as we continue to assess long-term solutions in my committee for those who served our state and our school children for so many years." The Texas House Republican Caucus is proud to support this initiative by joining Chairman Otto and Chairman Flynn to fully fund TRS-Care and honor the commitment made

28 Student Athletes in Humble ISD Sign National Letter of Intent

Congratulations to the 28 Humble Independent School District student athletes who signed their Letters of Intent for their respective colleges. Good luck to each of you on your upcoming adventures.



YMCA Bridge Fest

Representative Huberty was happy to support the 23rd Annual Lake Houston YMCA Annual Bridge Fest.



Leadership North Houston

Representative Huberty was honored to host the Leadership North Houston program for their Government Day at the Capitol with Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick.



Bills Filed in the 84th Legislative Session by Representative Huberty

Legislative Update During the 84th Session, Representative Huberty carried a robust legislative package covering issues from public education, open carry, and required ECG testing for High School athletes. Below, you will see a quick review of where active bills are in the process. To follow these, or other bills of interest, Texas Legislature Online can serve as a very useful website. To view a list of Representative Huberty's legislative package, simply click [here](#).

[B 4](#)- Relating to a high quality prekindergarten program provided by public school districts.

[B 198](#)- Relating to the carrying of concealed handguns by certain persons attending a school board meeting.

[B 199](#)- Relating to specialty license plates for county tax assessor-collectors.

[B 291](#)- Relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry the handgun; providing penalties.

[B 552](#)- Relating to the phaseout and repeal of the franchise tax; lowering the rates of the tax.

[B 741](#)- Relating to the administration to public school students in certain grades of state-administered assessment instruments.

[B 742](#)- Relating to eliminating certain state-required assessment instruments and certain end of course assessment instruments administered to public school students in certain grades.

[B 743](#)- Relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the required public school curriculum and to certain state-adopted or state-developed assessment instruments for public school students.

[B 744](#)- Relating to the purchase of certain insurance by public school districts.

[B 779](#)- Relating to cardiac assessments of participants in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

[B 929](#)- Relating to exclusion of certain public school student disciplinary actions from reports required by state or federal law.

[B 1206](#)- Relating to the disclosure of certain information under a consolidated insurance program.

[B 1465](#)- Relating to money used by certain counties for the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerate vehicle retirement program and local initiative air quality projects.

[B 1468](#)- Relating to the assessment of fourth and seventh grade public school students in writing and English language arts.

[B 1469](#)- Relating to the assessment of public school students in writing and English language arts.

[B 1490](#)- Relating to public school interventions and procedures for truancy.

[B 2176](#)- Relating to public school performance ratings.

[B 2177](#)- Relating to the power of certain commissioners courts to authorize ad valorem tax sales of real property to be conducted by means of online auctions.

[B 2221](#)- Relating to the procedures for municipal annexations.

[B 2247](#)- Relating to a determination of school district transportation costs and a modification of the transportation allotment under the foundation school program on the basis of those costs.

[B 2355](#)- Relating to an exemption for certain persons who sell signs from the requirement to be licensed as an electrician.

[B 2444](#)- Relating to alternative methods for satisfying certain public high school graduation requirements, including the use of individual graduation committees.

[B 2451](#)- Relating to the use by a school district of certain undesignated funds in the district's general fund.

[B 2640](#)- Relating to the cost of confinement and imprisonment of persons not lawfully present in the United States and reimbursement from the federal government for that cost.

HAAM's 25th Anniversary

Representative Huberty presented a Resolution from the Texas House of Representatives to HAAM for their 25th Anniversary event Raise the Roof at the Humble Civic Center.



Humble ISD ATPE at the Capitol

Today, we hosted members of ATP from Humble Independent School District here at the Texas Capitol. Great to have them here and spend some time discussing public education.



Reps. Huberty, Harless and Commissioner Cagle Speak to Pct. 4 Residents

Representative Huberty spoke to some wonderful Harris County, Precinct 4 residents alongside my good friends, Rep. Patricia Harless and Comm. Cagle



Lake Houston Area Chamber

Representative Huberty spoke to the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce members visiting the Texas Legislature. Our office is honored to have our constituents here and showing them how the Texas House of Representatives works for them.



Texas PTA Day

Representative Huberty was honored to speak to Texas PTA members at their Rally Day at the Texas Legislature and also spend some time with the folks here from the Humble Independent School District Council PTA's.



Upcoming Events

Monday, March 2

Texas Independence Day

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time Starts

Monday-Friday, March 9-13

Humble ISD Spring Break

Friday, March 13

Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the Governor for the 84th Legislative session

BOMA Day at the Capitol

Representative Huberty was happy to host the Building Owners and Managers Association at the Texas Capitol. Our office is glad to have these folks here advocating for their industry

